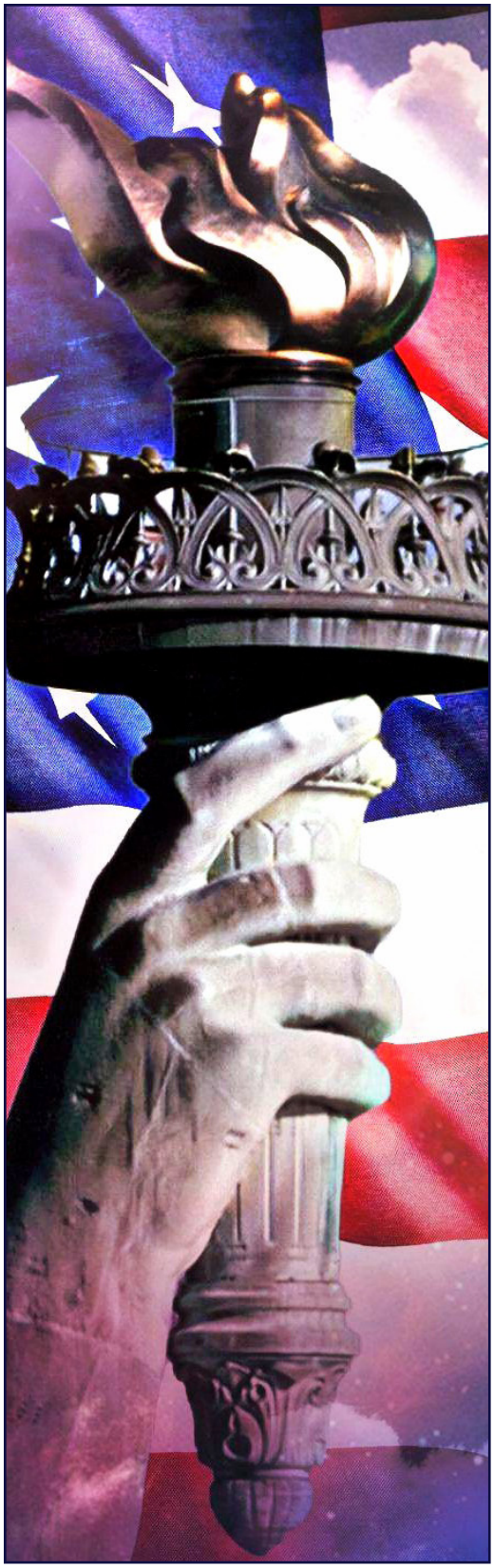
THE NAMING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS

Fort Liberty

As the new name for Fort Bragg, North Carolina



Perhaps no value has proved more essential to the United States of America and the history of its military than **Liberty**. Our Army was founded to achieve the ideal of liberty. In the American Revolution, patriots fought for the liberty to direct their lives, pursue their happiness, and determine their futures through representative democracy. When they created a standing military to provide for the common defense, they did so in order to secure the blessings of liberty. Encompassing more than simple freedom of action, movement, or commerce, our founding generations conceived of liberty as a force central to realizing full human promise.

Our nation was reborn through our Army's battles for liberty. In the American Civil War, the United States Army fought for the freedom of four million men, women, and children. The United States government resolved itself towards creating a new birth of freedom nationwide. Americans expanded the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, grounded in liberty, to every person born in the United States. The right to self-determination through voting was provided to every man (and eventually every woman, following their decades of advocacy in the Suffrage Movement). And slavery and involuntary servitude were prohibited forevermore, with our government and its military committed to enforcing those acts.

Our nation was empowered through our Army's commitment to liberty. In World War II, Americans fought for liberty against the forces of fascism. Together with their allies, American armies directly liberated Western Europe, the Pacific islands, and parts of South and Southeast Asia. Moreover, the American people supported the fight against fascism throughout the world, accomplishing manufacturing miracles at home and arming allies abroad. In that global conflict, our nation became the arsenal of democracy. And when the United States advocated a world order based on self-determination in the Postwar Era, the Army was often on the front lines of that fight, seeking to foster liberty and democracy against tyranny and empire.

In the 21st century, liberty remains the central tenet of America and its Army. Liberty graces our currency and our landmarks, and is essential to our founding documents. Liberty unites our varied politics – although different Americans have always held different ideas about how to best secure the blessings of liberty to the citizenry, they have always agreed that the enjoyment, enlargement, and endorsement of liberty is paramount to our national purpose. Liberty continues to unite the Army. It features on crests, centers the Divisional song of the storied 82d Airborne Division, and anchors the motto of the equally heralded U.S. Army Special Forces.

"Where liberty dwells," Benjamin Franklin is rumored to have said, "there is my country." At the greatest moments of its history, the United States Army and its soldiers have earned our nation's liberty, secured it for all Americans, and expanded it internationally. Fort Liberty symbolizes the U.S. Army's defense of liberty for almost 250 years within our nation and throughout the world.